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December 17, 2003

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 17, 2003.

*Cathi H. Turner*  
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Date of Signature December 17, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/998,080 filed  
November 30, 2001 for M<sup>III</sup>N BASED MATERIALS AND  
METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR PRODUCING SAME  
Our Ref. No. 297/105/2

Sir:

Enclosed is an Associate Power of Attorney Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.34 for filing in the United States Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-identified patent application.

We ask that the receiving official date stamp and return the accompanying return-receipt postcard to acknowledge receipt of the attached document.

Please do not hesitate to contact our offices with any comments or questions.

Respectfully submitted, I am

Very truly yours,

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